

Serial No.: 09/676,319

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/329001/P9832

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 were pending in the application. The specification stands objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Claims 1-22, 25-32, and 38-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over various combinations of U.S. Patent Number 6,321,339 to French et al. ("French"), U.S. Patent No. 6,311,163 to Sheehan et al. ("Sheehan"), Senate Bill 97134 LLS No. 970530.01 from the State of Colorado ("Colorado"), "Handbook of Applied Cryptography," Menezes et al. ("Menezes"), U.S. Patent No. 5,235,642 to Wobber et al. ("Wobber"), "Evaluating the Cost of Ownership for Digital Certificate Projects," AberdeenGroup ("Aberdeen"), "Meteor Security: Some Speculations," Magic, Inc., ("Magic"), "User Friendly Digital Signatures," and Matonis, ("Matonis").

Please cancel claims 1-41, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 42-65. Claims 42-65 are supported in the specification. For example, claims 42 and 43 are supported at page 5, line 22 et seq. Claim 44 is supported (for example) on page 6, lines 5-10. Claim 45 is supported (for example) on page 6, lines 5-10 and page 8, lines 10-12. Claim 46 is supported

Serial No.: 09/676,319

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/329001/P9832

(for example) on page 10, lines 4-6. Claim 47 is supported (for example) on page 9, lines 7-10. Claim 48 is supported (for example) on page 14, lines 12-14. Claim 49 is supported (for example) on page 16, line 22 to page 17, line 1.

I. Response to previous rejections

A. The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

As outlined above, new claims 42-65 are supported in the specification. The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is thus rendered moot. Particularly, page 9, lines 7-10 describe that the authentication information may be professional license status information ("Physicians input their name, state, zip code, date of birth, social security number and medical license number.")

B. The Objection to the Specification

The specification was objected to for failing to provide sufficient antecedent basis. For the reasons outlined above, the rejection has been rendered moot.

C. The Prior Art Rejections

New claims 42-65 more clearly emphasize patentable aspects of the current disclosure. In the current disclosure, different implementations of an authentication service can provide for secure and efficient data exchange between a user and a relying party, and may also provide for registration and information verification with a registration authority.

Serial No.: 09/676,319

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/329001/P9832

Claims 42, 50, and 58

Independent claims 42, 50, and 58 are patentable over the cited references at least because the cited references neither teach nor suggest the combination of features found in claims 42, 50, and 58.

For example, the references neither teach or suggest "receiving digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party," and "providing information to the first user, the information indicative of receiving the digital credential information associated with the first user from the relying party," as recited in claim 42.

Embodiments incorporating these features may reduce the likelihood of fraud by providing information (such as an activity log) to a user. For example, the digital credential received at the authentication service from the relying party may be stolen information (i.e., the user submitting the digital credential information associated with the first user is not the first user). Providing information indicative of receiving the digital credential information to the first user thus alerts the user to the fraudulent use of his or her information.

The cited portion of French (column 5, paragraph 6), neither teaches nor suggests this feature, in combination with the other features of claims 42, 50, and 58. The cited portion

Serial No.: 09/676,319

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/329001/P9832

of French merely teaches logging "user input, queries, and other information as a temporary or permanent record."

Since none of the cited references teaches or suggests the combination of features in claims 42, 50, and 58, claims 42, 50, and 58 are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 43-49, 51-57, and 59-65

Dependent claims 43-49, 51-57, and 59-65 depend from claims 42, 50, and 58, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for additional reasons as well. For example, the cited references neither teach or suggest "storing access information associated with the relying party...and providing the access information to the relying party," as recited in claim 46. By storing and providing access information, the relying party also has the ability to detect fraud, without having to independently monitor user access and/or confirm user information.

For at least the above reasons, new claims 42-65 are patentable over the cited references.

Serial No.: 09/676,319

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559/329001/P9832

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue, or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Claims 42-65 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (858) 678-4311.

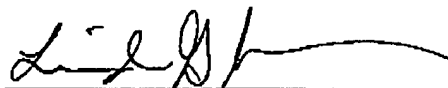
Serial No.: 09/676,319

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559/329001/P9832

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Respectfully submitted,

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